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MAY 25 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

MIWA et al.

Examiner: S. J. SHARAREH

Serial No.: 09/787,394

Group Art Unit: 1617

Filed: May 16, 2001

Title: NEAR INFRARED FLUORESCENT CONTRAST AGENT AND
FLUORESCENCE IMAGING

REPLY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CC: Copy faxed to Examiner at 571-273-0629

Sir:

In response to the Office action dated April 10, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Name:

Signature

Date: